

April 25, 1967

Dr. John A. Moore  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Johnny:

I was very pleased to have your letter of April 5, and particularly the spirit behind it. I hope you are really right that Columbia does mean business!

I will be in New York for the Medical School Bicentennial October 18-20 and hope to be able to look in on the department at that time. Unless you are able to move much more decisively than I ever was, you will probably not have made your conclusive decisions quite by then, though I might wish you even better luck than that!

I am at a loss to know what good suggestions to offer you. Our own efforts eventually dissipated into the realization that we already had acres of diamonds and would not be likely to improve on Don Kennedy by looking outside. I guess Vernon Ingram would have been the next person I would have wanted us to look at, but we never got to the point of any actual approach to him. You might also want to give some attention to Luria.

I am definitely not interested in chairing anything larger than the pocket-size department we have here. But if you do develop into a really first class ivory tower and can find a position for a professor such that he really can spend most of his time in constructive intellectual activity, let me know about such a curiosity. But don't expect me to believe it's true. There just aren't very many \$3 million endowments floating in the breeze. And \$5 million would probably be more realistic.

Forgive these bemusements, John. Life isn't anything like that here.

All the best luck to you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics